

From: Ron Nath
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/29/01 11:37am
Subject: Concerns regarding the US DOJ settlement with Microsoft Corp

To whom it may concern:

I would like to submit my concerns and thoughts regarding the recent settlement with MS corp. I do not believe that the settlement as it stands is in the publics best interest.

MS has been found to be a monopoly in the operating systems arena. To restore balance in this area, the government needs to take much more aggressive steps. I would go so far as to suggest that the company should have been broken up not in two, but into 5 parts (Commercial/business OS, Home OS, Commercial apps, Home apps, and internet services). However, as this will not happen we need to do the next best things:

1. Require that the OS be "unbundled" from hardware such that users can see the cost of proprietary operating systems vs. open/free software alternatives.
2. Require MS to open source its OS code to all those who purchase it.
3. Require MS to port ALL its apps to alternative operating systems (Linux, the BSDs, Mac OS X, Solaris, AIX, HP-UX) to "level the playing field"
4. Require MS to license its OS code to others who could sell various "versions" of the OS, ie having different apps added on by default (AOL/Netscape Windows, IBM Windows, Oracle Windows, Red Hat Windows containing open source apps running on top of core windos os, etc.)
5. Require MS to sell a lower cost version of its OS that is devoid of all "bundled" apps, ie Internet Explorer, Windows Media Player, IIS, instant messenger, Passport, Outlook Express, etc.

Beyond that, the government needs to take its own steps to encourage adoption of open source systems and apps (Linux, BSDs, MySQL/PostgreSQL, OpenOffice, etc.) as an alternative to current costly commercial/proprietary systems. This should be at all levels of government- Federal, state, local, all public schools, etc.

By requiring that all purchases of commercial software must be justified when an equivalent open source solution exists (much like generic drug substitution for brand name drugs) we could save tax payers an enourmous amount of money. More tax breaks would make the current government look even better in the eyes of the voters.

I hope you will consider these suggestions in light of the remaining 9

states who have not "caved in" to the might of Microsoft who is basically holding the government hostage. Its frightening to think that one corporation wields this much influence and power over what is considered the most powerful country in the free world. We must take the above steps to change this horrid situation.

Thank you for your time and interest in my thoughts.

Ron Nath
Wolcott, CT.